

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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TAGS: PORG FAO

SUBJ: FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR AFRICA, NOVEMBER 2-12,
1976, FREETOWN SIERRA LEONE - DRAFT TEXT OF DECLARATION OF
FREETOWN

REF: (A) USINFO OCT 19, (B) FREETOWN 3535

1. QUOTE: WE THE MEMBER NATIONS OF FAO IN AFRICA, ASSEMBLED
IN FREETOWN AT THE NINTH REGIONAL CONFERENCE, REPRESENTING
ONE THIRD OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED
THAT, DESPITE THE EFFORTS MADE BY MANY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
TO INCREASE FOOD PRODUCTION OVER THE PAST YEARS, THE GAP
BETWEEN THE NEEDS OF OUR PEOPLES AND PRODUCTION LEVELS HAS
FURTHER WIDENED, NOTING THAT AGRICULTURAL PERFORMANCE IN AFRICA
HAS DECLINED OVER THE PAST 15 YEARS DESPITE INCREASED NATIONAL
EFFORTS, AND THAT THE MAJOR FACTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS DECLINE
ARE POOR ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS, LACK OF ADEQUATE FINANCIAL
RESOURCES, INAPPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY, AND INADEQUATE SOCIO-
ECONOMIC AND INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURES,

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2. RECALLING THE ECONOMIC DECLARATION AND PROGRAMME OF ACTION

OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER, THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE, AND THE RESOLUTION ON FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION OF THE FIFTH CONFERENCE OF HEADS OF STATE NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES,

3. NOTING THAT OUR AFRICAN CONTINENT HAS VAST UNTAPPED NATURAL RESOURCES, POTENTIALLY ABLE TO PRODUCE FOOD SUFFICIENT NOT ONLY TO ADEQUATELY SATISFY ITS OWN NEEDS, BUT ALSO TO BE EXPORTED TO OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD,

4. MINDFUL OF THE FACT THAT FAO, WHICH IS NOW BEING RE-ORIENTED TOWARDS MORE ACTIVE ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, WITH STRONGER EMPHASIS ON DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES, WOULD BE OF GREAT SUPPORT TO OUR NATIONAL EFFORTS,

5. REALIZING THAT NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS HAVE NOT ALWAYS PROVIDED ADEQUATE INVESTMENT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR, AND THAT THIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT CONSTRAINT TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS SECTOR,

6. REALIZING FURTHER THAT THE FLOW OF RESOURCES FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WHICH WAS PROMISED FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE IN AFRICA IS STILL INADEQUATE, AND

7. AWARE THAT THIS HAS ALSO PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE IN IMPEDING AFRICAN AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT,

8. EXPRESS FULL DETERMINATION TO MAXIMIZE OUR EFFORTS TO DEVELOP AGRICULTURE IN OUR CONTINENT, AND GIVE THE LATTER THE ROLE IT DESERVES IN THE WORLD AS A MAJOR FOOD-PRODUCING CONTINENT.

TOWARDS THIS END WE UNDERTAKE TO DO THE FOLLOWING:

(A) TO ACCORD THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SECTOR A KEY POSITION COMMENSURATE WITH ITS PRIMARY ROLE IN OUR ECONOMIES THROUGH THE ALLOCATION OF MORE INVESTMENT RESOURCES TO THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR;

(B) TO PROMOTE SELF-RELIANCE THROUGH NATIONAL EFFORTS AND
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THROUGH REGIONAL AND INTER-REGIONAL COOPERATION WITH OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

(C) TO ESTABLISH ON A NATIONAL, SUB-REGIONAL AND REGIONAL BASIS, INSTITUTIONS FOR AGRI-BUSINESS MANAGEMENT, DEVELOPMENT OR HARMONIZED CODES FOR INVESTMENT IN AGRICULTURE, INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT, PROMOTION OF FOOD TRADE BETWEEN COUNTRIES IN THE REGION, AND TO INVITE FAO, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE

WORLD BANK AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
TO ASSIST IN GETTING THESE INSTITUTIONS ESTABLISHED BEFORE
THE NEXT REGIONAL CONFERENCE.

9. EXPRESS OUR FULL SUPPORT FOR THE INITIATIVES TAKEN BY THE
DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS TO MAKE THIS ORGANIZATION ACTION-ORIENTED,

10. INVITE FAO TO INTENSIFY ITS EFFORTS IN DEVELOPING MORE
ACTION-ORIENTED PROGRAMMES AND TO ASSIST OUR GOVERNMENTS
IN IDENTIFYING AND PREPARING PROJECTS TO BE FINANCED BY IFAD
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL FINANCING INSTITUTIONS.

11. DEEPLY CONSCIOUS OF OUR COMMON PROBLEMS AND UNITED IN OUR
RESOLVE TO ELIMINATE MALNUTRITION AND POVERTY IN OUR REGION,

12. WE HEREBY PLEDGE OUR RENEWED EFFORTS TO REMOVE ALL INTERNAL
CONSTRAINTS AND MOBILIZE OUR VAST NATURAL RESOURCES.

13. WE CALL UPON THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, PARTICULARLY
THE DEVELOPED NATIONS, TO REMOVE ALL EXTERNAL CONSTRAINTS
WHICH PREVENT US FROM ACHIEVING OUR POTENTIALS TO THE FULL.
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SAMUELS

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